The Ultimate Utility Package

hack-pack

LIGHTNING SPEED RAM-DISK

HIGH POWER PROGRAM COMPRESSOR

FULL FEATURE TOOLKIT

FIND · CHANGE · MERGE

DUMP · INFO · TYPE · SIZE · · ·

commodore 128

hack-pack *The Ultimate Utility Package*

HACK-PACK is the ultimate value programmers' utility pack for the Commodore 128.
HACK-PACK contains not only a full feature TOOLKIT for BASIC programmers, but also a RAM-DISK, modelled on the AMIGA but functionally compatible with the 1541/1571 disk drives. And just for good measure, we have thrown in a program compressor to make your programs smaller and faster.

THE TOOLKIT

Once loaded (by simple menu selection), the HACK–PACK TOOLKIT fits into an area at the top of RAM in bank 0 and merges itself unobtrusively with the Commodore editor. TOOLKIT does not affect the 128 in any way except to place eight new commands at your fingertips; commands which will make your BASIC progamming more enjoyable and effective.

Here are just a few of the TOOLKIT features:

FIND . . . With the FIND command you can locate ANY string in a BASIC program. Variables, keywords, quoted strings REMs etc can all be found instantly. You can optionally restrict the search to any given line range and output can be directed to screen, printer or disk.

CHANGE . . . This command works like FIND but also allows you to replace ANY sequence of characters with any other.

DUMP . . . A very useful command, lists all the variables, arrays and functions defined by your program and (in the case of variables) prints out their values. Essential for debugging.

MERGE . . . The MERGE command allows you to join two BASIC programs together into a single file. MERGE lets you take useful routines from existing programs and build them into new code. By using DUMP, CHANGE and MERGE together, you can build up a library of useful subroutines for inclusion in any program.

INFO . . . This much extended version of the FRE command calculates exactly how much memory you are using for code, variables, arrays and strings and exactly how much memory you have left in each catagory.

RAM-DISK

Imagine a disk drive like the 1541 or 1571 only many times faster. This is RAM-DISK. RAM-DISK organises the RAM inside your 128 as a soft disk drive. Once loaded, RAM-DISK responds to all the usual disk commands such as DLOAD, DSAVE, DOPEN, COPY, APPEND, CATALOG etc and behaves exactly like a floppy drive. The only difference is that everything happens much faster. RAM-DISK is modelled on the RAM-DISKs supplied as standard on the AMIGA, the ST and the AMSTRAD and provides a way for you as a programmer to fully exploit the 128's large memory. The COPY command can be used to move files from a physical disk drive to RAM-DISK and vica versa. At the end of a session all the files held on RAM-DISK can be backed up onto floppy disk.

For most applications, including all BASIC applications, no special commands or knowledge are necessary. RAM-DISK does however provide certain additional commands for the machine code programmer, aimed at making the best use of the memory available. Advanced users can instruct RAM-DISK to use any number of memory pages dotted about anywhere in any bank, and these commands can be executed in either direct or program mode. All RAM-DISK commands can be called from machine code as well as from BASIC.

COMPRESSOR

Compressor is a utility for compressing programs down to their minimum size. Just type in the name of your program, wait a minute or two and then see a new version with all spaces and REMs removed and with up to 255 characters packed onto each line.

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